

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-6 and 15-24, and amend claims 1, 7 and 12 as follows:

1. (Amended) A system for purifying exhaust gas generated by an internal combustion engine having an air intake system and an exhaust system which includes an exhaust pipe extending from an exhaust manifold of the engine and a catalyst installed in the exhaust pipe, the exhaust system exhausting gas generated by the engine to the atmosphere, comprising [including]:

a bypass branching out from the exhaust pipe at a location downstream of the catalyst and merging to the exhaust pipe downstream of the branching point;

an adsorber installed in the bypass;

[a] valve means which closes the bypass;

a conduit connected to the bypass at one end and connected to the air intake system for recirculating the exhaust gas to the air intake system;

valve control means which operates [opens] the valve means to open the bypass for a period since starting of the engine to introduce the exhaust gas to the bypass such that the adsorber installed in the bypass adsorbs the unburnt component in the exhaust gas and then closes the valve means to recirculate the adsorbed unburnt component through the conduit with the exhaust gas after having desorbed from the adsorber; [and]

[an] EGR control means which causes the exhaust gas introduced in the bypass to be recirculated to the air intake system through the conduit;

[wherein the improvement comprises:

the valve means is provided adjacent the branching point in the exhaust pipe; and

a chamber is provided surrounding the branching point such that the conduit is connected to the bypass at one end in the chamber]

fuel injection quantity determining means for determining a quantity of fuel injection to be supplied to the engine;

air/fuel ratio detecting means for detecting an air/fuel ratio of the exhaust gas;

feedback loop means having an adaptive controller with an adaptation mechanism that estimates an adaptive parameter, the feedback loop means calculating a feedback correction coefficient based on the estimated adaptive parameter such that the detected air/fuel ratio converges to a desired air/fuel ratio;

EGR correction coefficient calculating means for calculating an EGR correction coefficient when recirculating the exhaust gas to the air intake system; and

fuel injection quantity correcting means for correcting the quantity of fuel injection based on at least the feedback correction coefficient and the EGR correction coefficient.

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the valve control means including:

catalyst temperature parameter detecting means for detecting a parameter relating to a temperature of the catalyst;

and determines [a] the period based on the detected parameter.

12. (Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein the valve control means decreases the period with increasing temperature of the [catalyst] engine.